

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3541

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON PARTICIPATION IN 1976 NATO HIGH LEVEL EXERCISE
(HILEX7)

REF: A. USNATO 1691(1974)

B. USNATO 3114 NOTAL

C. USNATO 3499

SUMMARY: WASHINGTON PARTICIPATION IN PREVIOUS HILEX EXERCISES HAS BEEN MINIMAL IN COMPARISON TO THAT OF OUR ALLIES, WHICH PLACE HIGH IMPORTANCE ON BOTH THE PLANNING AND CONDUCT OF THESE EXERCISES. SINCE HILEX (SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE MARCH/APRIL 1976) IS THE ONLY OP-

PORTUNITY AVAILABLE EVERY TWO YEARS TO TEST NATO HQ CRISIS MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES IN CONJUNCTION WITH NATIONAL PROCEDURES, WE RECOMMEND EXPANDED WASHINGTON PARTICIPATION IN BOTH THE PLANNING AND CONDUCT
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OF THE EXERCISE. END SUMMARY

1. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE LEVEL OF WASHINGTON PARTICIPATION IN THE SPRING 1976 NATO HILEX 7 EXERCISE.

2. HILEX 7 IS ONE OF A BIENNIAL SERIES DESIGNED TO TEST AND FURTHER DEVELOP ALLIANCE PROCEDURES FOR CONSULTATION AND COLLECTIVE DECISION-MAKING ON POLITICAL, MILITARY, AND CIVIL PREPAREDNESS MATTERS. THE HILEX SERIES IS THE ONLY EXERCISE DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO TEST AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL NATO HQ CRISIS MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES IN CONJUNCTION WITH NATIONAL PROCEDURES. THE DPC HAS AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN HILEX 7 ON A ROUND-THE-CLOCK BASIS FROM MARCH 29 TO APRIL 2, 1976

3. WASHINGTON PARTICIPATION IN PREVIOUS HILEX EXERCISES HAS BEEN MINIMAL IN COMPARISON TO OUR ALLIES (ESPECIALLY UK AND FRG), WHICH TAKE KEEN INTEREST BOTH IN THE PLANNING AND CONDUCT OF THESE EXERCISES. FOR EXAMPLE, FRG MOD LEBER AND MOI MAIHOFF PARTICIPATED IN WINTEX 75 AND SIMILAR HIGH-LEVEL BONN PARTICIPATION IS PLANNED FOR HILEX 7.

4. STRONG WASHINGTON PARTICIPATION BY COGNIZANT DEPARTMENT/AGENCIES IN HILEX 7 WOULD : A) PROVIDE FOR BROADER TESTING AND EVALUATION OF NATIONAL PROCEDURES (FEDERAL CIVIL EMERGENCY ACTIONS GUIDE LIST/JCS JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION) IN CONJUNCTION WITH NATO HQ CRISIS MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES; B) ADD GREATER REALISM TO USNATO/USDELMC PARTICIPATION IN THE EXERCISE; AND C) DEMONSTRATE IN YET ANOTHER WAY OUR INTEREST IN AND COMMITMENT, TO THE ALLIANCE.

5. DETAILED PLANNING FOR HILEX 7 IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HIGH LEVEL EXERCISE PLANNING GROUP, WHICH IS COMPOSED OF NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN MINISTRIES, MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE, AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS. THE HIGH-LEVEL PLANNING GROUP WILL MEET AT BRUSSELS APPROXIMATELY FOUR TIMES PRIOR TO HILEX 7 TO DEVELOP A DETAILED EXERCISE SCENARIO WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

6. MOST CAPITALS CONSIDERED THAT THE RAPID PACE OF THE HILEX 6 (SPRING 1974) SCENARIO FAILED TO PROVIDE A REALISTIC TEST FOR GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATION AND COLLECTIVE DECISION-MAKING. THERE-
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FORE, HILEX7 WILL START AT THE LOWER END OF THE CRISIS SPECTRUM AND GRADUALLY BUILD UP TO DECLARATIONS OF SELECTED SIMPLE ALERT MEASURES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR A REALISTIC RESPONSE TIME AND AFFORD AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DETAILED EXAMINATION OF MANY CRISIS MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA.

7. AS THE PLANNING FOR HILEX 7 IS PRESENTLY UNDER WAY, WE RECOMMEND:

-EXPANDED WASHINGTON REPRESENTATION AT NATO HIGH-LEVEL EXERCISE PLANNING GROUP MEETINGS TO INSURE ADEQUATE INPUTS TO THE HILEX 7 SCENARIO BY ALL COGNIZANT AGENCIES (THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 22-23).

--ROUND-THE-CLOCK OPERATION OF A WASHINGTON RESPONSE CELL
DURING MARCH 29-APRIL 2, 1976. SUGGEST PARTICIPATION BY DEPART-
MENTS OF STATE, DEFENSE, COMMERCE, INTERIOR AND FEDERAL PREPAREDNESS
AGENCY.

--HIGH-LEVEL WASHINGTON PARTICIPATION(DEPUTY SECRETARY/
ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL FOR A SHORT PERIOD DURING MOST ACTIVE
PHASE OF EXERCISE. A REVIEW OF THE HILEX 7 SCENARIO INDICATES MARCH 31

AND/OR APRIL 1 AS LIKELY THE MOST SUITABLE DATES.
STREATOR

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